

Message Text

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14

ORIGIN AF-18

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R 102256Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS STATE 005856

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP

SUBJ: POSSIBILITY ESTABLISHING AMERICAN CHAMBER OF
COMMERCE IN KINSHASA

REF: KINSHASA 10290

1. FOLLOWING RECEIPT BY-LAWS AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN'S
ASSOCIATION (ABA) AF COMMERCIAL COORDINATOR VISITED US
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (CC) AND DISCUSSED REFTEL WITH AUGUST
MAFFRY, JR., ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS.
MAFFRY NOTED THAT ONLY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE (AMCHAM)
IN AFRICA WAS AT CASABLANCA AND IT WAS RATHER INACTIVE.
HE SAID CC WAS ANXIOUS TO EXPAND ABROAD AND HOPED IT WOULD
BE FEASIBLE TO ESTABLISH BRANCH IN ZAIRE.

2. MAFFRY THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE ADVANTAGE
TO CHANGING ABA TO AMCHAM. AMONG BENEFITS TO MEMBERS
WOULD BE "GREATER LEGITIMACY," SUPPORT PROVIDED BY CC AS
LOBBYIST, RECEIPT OF INFORMATION DISTRIBUTED BY CC, AND
OTHER SERVICES PROVIDED TO MEMBERS. HE DID NOT BELIEVE
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BY-LAWS OF ABA WOULD REQUIRE VERY MUCH MODIFICATION TO

CONVERT IT TO AMCHAM. HE THOUGHT FEASIBILITY OF
ESTABLISHING BRANCH OF AMCHAM WOULD DEPEND UPON ENTHUSIASM
OF MEMBERS OF ABA FOR THIS CHANGE.

3. MAFFRY SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MATTER WITH OTHERS IN CC
AND WRITE TO E/C COUNSELOR PROVIDING HIM WITH INFORMATION
REQUESTED IN REFTEL. HE WAS VERY APPRECIATIVE OF THIS
INITIATIVE BY E/C COUNSELOR. KISSINGER

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